

## CLAIMS

I claim:

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1. An expert system, comprising an administrative unit with a requester interface for communicating with solution requesters via a communication network, a provider interface for identification of solution offers by solution providers, and a database in which solution requests are stored according to a given specification and in which said solution offers are  
10 stored with a given specification, for which said administrative unit can perform an analysis of said solution requests and said solution offers and as a result of such an analysis, when a possible solution of a solution provider is found for said solution request, establish a contact between a solution requester and a solution provider.

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2. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein a formulation of said solution requests is managed by said administrative unit.

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3. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein a formulation of solution requests with said administrative unit is interactive.

4. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said administrative unit presents a solution requester with questions for the formulation of a solution request.

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5. The expert system according to claim 4, wherein said questions and given rules for the formulation of solution requests are stored in said database.

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6. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein the formulation of said solution requests by said administrative unit can be moderated in such a manner that the questions set by said administrative unit to the solution requester depend upon the answers already given by said solution requester.

7. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution offers are stored in said database.

8. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein a solution provider may be connected to said administrative unit via a communication network.

9. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein the formulation of solution offers requests is managed by said administrative unit.

10. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein the formulation of said solution offers with said administrative unit may be done interactively.

11. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said administrative unit presents a solution provider with questions for the formulation of solution offers.

12. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein given questions and given rules for the formulation of said solution offers are stored in said database.

13. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution offers are evaluated by said administrative unit.

14. The expert system according to claim 13, wherein a quality value is assigned to the evaluated solution offers.

15. The expert system according to claim 14, wherein said quality value is formulated based upon rules stored in said database.

16. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution requesters can be connected to said administrative unit within the framework of a client-server-structure.

17. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution providers can be connected to said administrative unit within the framework of a Client-Server-Structure.

18. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution requesters can be connected to said administrative unit via the Internet via a communication network.

19. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution providers may be

connected to said administrative unit via the Internet via a communication network.

20. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein a requester identification along with a solution request is stored in said database.

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21. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein a provider identification along with a solution offer is stored in said database.

22. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution offers are stored in said database in the form of features and feature conditions.

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23. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said administrative unit filters solution offers to a solution request.

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24. The expert system according to claim 23, wherein said administrative unit presents the solution requester with suitable solution offers.

25. The expert system according to claim 24, wherein said administrative unit presents a solution requester with suitable solution providers.

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26. The expert system according to claim 25, wherein said solution requester can send inquiries to said solution provider on the presentation of said solution offers.

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27. The expert system according to claim 26, wherein said inquiries are first transferred to said administrative unit and then forwarded to an appropriate solution provider.

28. The expert system according to claim 27, wherein a request to a solution provider is set up according to a definite specification.

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29. The expert system according to claim 28, wherein a solution requester may explicitly exclude a solution provider.

30. The expert system according to claim 29, wherein a solution provider can communicate an offer to the solution requester upon specific request.

31. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution provider and said solution requester can be connected via a communication network.

5        32. The expert system according to claim 31, wherein the solution provider and the solution requester can be connected via the Internet in a client-client-relation.

33. The expert system according to claim 32, wherein a process of filtering of suitable solutions takes place according to given facts and given rules.

10       34. The expert system according to claim 33, wherein said solutions found are stored in said database along with an assigned provider identification.

15       35. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said solution requests are stored in said database.

36. The expert system according to claim 35, wherein said solution requests are statistically evaluated.

20       37. The expert system according to claim 1, wherein said administrative unit has an interface for one or more specialists.

38. The expert system according to claim 37, wherein said one or more specialists can be connected to said administrative unit via a communication network.

25       39. The expert system according to claim 38, wherein said one or more specialists can store solutions in said database.

30       40. The expert system according to claim 39, wherein one or more specialists can specify questions and rules for formulation and storage of said solution requests.

41. The expert system according to claim 40, wherein said one or more specialists can specify questions and rules for formulation and storage of said solution offers.

42. The expert system according to claim 40, wherein said one or more specialists can specify rules for filtering of solution offers for a solution request.

43. The expert system according to claim 42, wherein said one or more specialists  
5 can receive offers stored in database.

44. The expert system according to claim 43, wherein said one or more specialists can receive requests stored in database.

10 45. The expert system according to claim 44, wherein said one or more specialists can receive results of solution request and solution offer matching.

46. A method for assigning solution offers to solution requests, said method comprising the steps of:

- 15 (a) an administrative unit communicates with said solution requesters using a requester interface via a communication network;
- (b) said solution requests are stored with a given specification;
- (c) said solution offers are stored with a given specification;
- 20 (d) said administrative unit analyzes said solution requests and said solution offers; and
- (e) upon finding a possible solution of a solution request by a solution provider, said administrative unit establishes a contact between said solution requester and said solution provider.